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U.S. Application No. 09/709,038 Examiner LEZAK, Arrienne, Art Unit 2143
Submission of Amendment with RCE in Response to August 12, 2005 Office Action

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for presenting presence information to a first user, comprising the steps of A method for identifying to a sender of a communication an availability of members through their contact devices, comprising:

retrieving presence information of a second user indicating the second user's presence at a plurality of contact devices; and

presenting the second user's presence information to the first user, the presence information indicating the second user's presence at the plurality of contact devices

~~storing a profile on each member, the profile identifying at least one contact device for each member, with each member's profile assigned a random and unique code number, and each member's profile requiring a password to access the profile;~~

~~exchanging each member's code number and password amongst the other members to allow each member to access every other member's profile;~~

~~receiving a first selection from the sender to verify a chosen member's communications presence information;~~

~~using the chosen member's code number to determine which of the chosen member's contact devices are available to receive the communication;~~

~~providing the communications presence information to the sender; and~~

~~receiving a second selection from the sender to initiate the communication with one of the chosen member's available contact devices.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving authorization to present the second user's presence information to the first user notification that the chosen member's contact device is active.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 1, wherein the plurality of addresses represents at least one of different types of communications and different types of the contact devices further comprising connecting the sender to the chosen member via the active contact device.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of presenting the second user's presence information comprises presenting the presence information in an electronic interface using the chosen member's code number to determine availability of a contact device comprises querying the contact device.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of presenting the second user's presence information comprises presenting the presence information in an electronic interface via at least one of a computer and a telephone using the chosen member's code number to determine availability of a contact device comprises querying a network provider associated with the contact device.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the presence information is at least in part determined based on a time or a day of week preference from a profile of the second user further comprising connecting the sender to the contact device.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting a graphical indicator that indicates the second user's presence at the plurality of contact devices sending a message to the contact device.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of presenting the presence information comprises causing display of the presence information to the first user storing

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~~the profile comprises enabling a plurality of contact devices to be stored for each member.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the presence information comprises at least one of i) querying a provider to determine the presence information and ii) querying a contact device to determine the presence information ~~storing the profile comprises storing addressing information for each contact device.~~
12. (Currently Amended) A system for presenting presence information to a sender of a communication facilitating communication between a user and members of a communications circle, comprising:

an input for receiving presence information of a recipient indicating the recipient's presence at a plurality of contact devices; and

a processor coupled with the input, the processor causing presentation of the recipient's presence information to the sender, the presence information indicating the recipient's presence at a plurality of contact devices, the processor receiving a selection from the sender that selects a contact device to which the communication is addressed, and the processor initiating the communication from the sender to an address of the selected contact device

~~a database for storing profiles of all members of the communications circle, each profile identifying at least one contact device for each member with each member's profile assigned a random and unique code number, and each member's profile requiring a password to access the profile; and~~

~~a communications server exchanging each member's code number and password amongst the other members to allow each member to access every other member's profile, the communications server receiving a first selection from the user to verify a chosen member's communications presence information;~~

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~~using the chosen member's code number to determine which of the chosen member's contact devices are available to receive the communication; providing the communications presence information to the sender; and receiving a second selection from the sender to initiate the communication with one of the chosen member's available contact devices.~~

13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor initiates a telephone call to a telephone number associated with the selected contact device communications presence information indicates if the contact device is active.
15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor initiates an Internet Telephony call from the sender to the recipient profile includes an address for the contact device.
16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor initiates an electronic message to an email address communications server connects the user to one of the members in the communications circle.
17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor initiates an electronic message to a text messaging address communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through the Internet.
18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor processes the recipient's presence information for display to the sender communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through an email message.

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19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 12, wherein the processor presents a graphical indicator that indicates the recipient's presence at the plurality of contact devices ~~communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through a page sent to the one member.~~
20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 12, wherein the processor causes display of an icon to initiate the communication from the sender to the address associated with the selected contact device ~~contact device of the one member comprises a wireless device and the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications through a wireless network.~~
21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 12, wherein the processor retrieves the presence information by querying at least one of i) a provider and ii) the contact device to determine the presence information ~~chosen member of the communications server has an interactive television and the communications server connects the user to the interactive television of the chosen member.~~
22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 12, wherein the selection from the sender is based on the presence information ~~chosen member of the communications circle has a personal computer with access to the Internet through an internet service provider and the communications server connects the user to the personal computer of the chosen member.~~
23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 12, wherein the processor receives a notification that the contact device is active ~~communications server connects the user to an Internet appliance of the chosen member of the communications circle.~~
24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions for performing the steps:

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retrieving presence information of a recipient indicating the recipient's presence at a plurality of addresses;

presenting the recipient's presence information to the sender, the presence information indicating the recipient's presence at a plurality of contact devices;

receiving a selection from the sender that selects a contact device to which the communication is addressed; and

initiating the communication from the sender to an address of the selected contact device

~~An interface for being provided to a sender of a communication to display communications presence information on a sender's communications circle, comprising:~~

~~a communications section for displaying members of the sender's communications circle, each member in the communications circle having at least one contact device through which each member may communicate with the sender;~~

~~a profile section for displaying profile information on each member of the communications circle, the profile information identifying each member, listing contact devices associated with each member, and displaying an availability of each of the contact devices; and~~

~~a contact section exchanging each member's code number and password amongst the other members to allow each member to access every other member's profile, the contact section receiving a first selection from the sender to verify a chosen member's communications presence information, the contact section using the chosen member's code number to determine which of the chosen member's contact devices are available to receive the communication, the contact section providing the communications presence information to the sender, and the contact section receiving a second selection from the sender to initiate the communication with one of the chosen member's available contact devices;~~

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~~wherein the sender is able to determine which contact device is available by viewing the profile information on the members of the communications circle and can initiate contact with any member having an available contact device.~~

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for initiating a telephone call to a telephone number associated with the selected contact device. The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section displays a name of each member in the communications circle.~~
26. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for initiating an Internet Telephony call from the sender to the recipient. The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section displays the contact devices associated with each member of the communications circle.~~
27. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for initiating an electronic message to an email address. The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section has a link for allowing the sender to view the profile section.~~
28. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for initiating an electronic message to a text messaging address. The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface includes the profile section for each of the members in the communications circle.~~
29. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for processing the recipient's presence information for display to the sender. The interface of claim 24, wherein the profile section displays address information for the contact devices associated with each member and the availability of each contact device.~~

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30. (Canceled)
31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for presenting a graphical indicator that indicates the recipient's presence at the plurality of contact devices ~~The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a personal computer.~~
32. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for causing display of an icon to initiate the communication from the sender to the address associated with the selected contact device ~~The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a wireless device.~~
33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for at least one of i) retrieving the presence information by querying a provider to determine the presence information and ii) retrieving the presence information by querying the contact device to determine the presence information ~~The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display through a pager.~~
34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for receiving a notification that the contact device is active ~~The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display through a wireless telephone.~~
35. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 24, wherein the selection from the sender is based on the presence information ~~The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on an interactive television.~~
36. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 24, further comprising instructions for causing display of an icon to indicate presence at at least one of a phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a computer, and an interactive television

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~~The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a personal digital assistant.~~

37. (New) A method for initiating a communication from a sender to a recipient, comprising the steps of:

retrieving presence information of a recipient indicating the recipient's presence at a plurality of addresses;

presenting the recipient's presence information to the sender, the presence information indicating the recipient's presence at a plurality of contact devices;

receiving a selection from the sender that selects a contact device to which the communication is addressed; and

initiating the communication from the sender to an address of the selected contact device.

38. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of initiating the communication comprises initiating a telephone call to a telephone number associated with the selected contact device.

39. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of initiating the communication comprises initiating an Internet Telephony call from the sender to the recipient.

40. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of initiating the communication comprises initiating an electronic message to an email address.

41. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of initiating the communication comprises initiating an electronic message to a text messaging address.

42. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the selection from the sender is based on the presence information.

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43. (New) An electronic interface providing presence information to a sender, the electronic interface comprising:

a communications section displaying presence information of a recipient, the presence information indicating the recipient's presence at a plurality of addresses associated with a plurality of contact devices; and

a contact section receiving a selection from the sender that selects a contact device to which a communication is addressed,

wherein receipt of the selection initiates the communication from the sender to an address associated with the selected contact device.

44. (New) An electronic interface according to claim 42, wherein receipt of the selection initiates a telephone call to a telephone number associated with the selected contact device.
45. (New) An electronic interface according to claim 42, wherein receipt of the selection initiates an Internet Telephony call from the sender to the recipient.
46. (New) An electronic interface according to claim 42, wherein receipt of the selection initiates an electronic message to an email address.
47. (New) An electronic interface according to claim 42, wherein receipt of the selection initiates an electronic message to a text messaging address.